

A Reading Plan Starter Kit

Statistics show that most people professing faith in Jesus have never completely read their Bible. Many people start reading the Bible but then become overwhelmed by the number of chapters (1,189) and verses (31,102) there are. What we don't realize is that we can read the Bible in a year by reading **fewer than four chapters a day**.

By dividing the Bible into 365 daily readings, your goal of reading the Bible in a year can easily be accomplished. Here at Bible Study Tools, not only can you come and read the Bible on a daily basis, but we can help you chart your reading progress online during the year. That means you don't have to wait until the New Year -- you can start reading the Bible today.

First, just register or login to the website (www.biblestudytools.com) so we can show you a customized Bible reading plan tracking chart. We currently have over 20 Bible reading plans so you can choose one that works right for you! The Bible in a Year reading plan contains 365 daily readings designed to help you easily read the entire Bible in just one year! Simply select your preferred Bible reading plan, the date you wish to begin reading and your preferred Bible translation. We will create your customized progress chart, and you'll be on your way! Record your Bible reading progress as you go - complete your assigned Bible reading each day and click "Finished Reading" at the top or bottom of the Bible in a Year reading page.

Start your daily Bible reading journey today!

We've created this starter kit as a helpful guide for you along your Bible reading journey. Here, you'll find tips on how to have a productive and meaningful quiet time, as well as pages you can print to take notes while you study.

Enjoy diving deeper into Scripture this year!

10 Simple and Helpful Bible Reading Tips

1. Start with prayer.
2. Have your quiet time in a distraction-free place.
3. Read from a trusted Bible translation that you love.
4. Read another translations so you can compare and contrast the writing styles.
5. Underline phrases or words that stand out to you.
6. Make a note of any questions or ideas you have while reading.
7. Pay attention to things that are repeated, the names of people, location changes, and any commands Jesus gives.
8. Read the passage several times -- once, for an overview. Twice, for making notes. A third time for digging deeper.
9. Read study notes, commentaries, footnotes, and cross-referenced verses.
10. Write out your thoughts, prayers, questions, and lessons learned in response to your reading.

How to Have a Quiet Time

Tip 1: Don't Box Yourself In. God works on an individual basis. We each have a unique relationship with Him. Don't feel like your quiet time needs to look like anyone else's. There is no right or wrong way.

Tip 2: Give Yourself Some Grace. If spending time reading your Bible is a new thing for you, it may not immediately be your favorite part of your day. Commit to the process. Give yourself some grace if it takes a little while to develop a real love for it.

Tip 3: Get Started on the Right Foot. Set your alarm a little earlier and get your day started off on the right foot by carving out some time at the start of each new day to turn your heart to the things of God.

Tip 4: Build an Altar. Find a little space, like your desk, kitchen table, or prayer closet, which can be a place where you return each morning for your Bible reading.

Tip 5: Plan Ahead. Take a few moments the night before to prepare for your quiet time. These simple steps take the work out of your morning and ensure that all you need to do is stumble to your place and open your Bible.

Tip 6: Make a Date. Look at your daily Bible reading time as a date that you have set to invest in your relationship with your Heavenly Father-- He is ready and waiting for you to show up.

Tip 7: Stop the Distractions. Keep your phone face down until you are through with your quiet time. Give God those first minutes of your morning by eliminating the distractions of texts, social media, and email.

Tip 8: Engage. Use the notes pages in this packet to help process what you're studying. Highlight verses, write notes in the margins of your Bible, write out questions, or copy powerful passages of Scripture.

Tip 9: Partner Up. Look within your church and your community to see if there is a group that you can join to do a scripture study with. If that isn't an option, find an online community that you trust.

Tip 10: Follow Through. Commit to being in the word of God each and every day. Every time you open God's word, He is at work in you. He will reward your efforts and you will be drawn in to a richer and deeper relationship with your Heavenly Father as you come to know Him better. None of that can happen if you don't do the work of having a daily quiet time of Bible reading and prayer.

Content for this list comes from "10 Tips for a Better Quiet Time in 2017" by Bobbie Schaeperkoetter, originally published on iBelieve.com on December 22, 2016.

My Notes

My reading plan: _____

Day _____

Today's passage:

Key words:

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

My main takeaway: